

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 109201 TOSEC 040266
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:DWL

APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS

P -JFORBES

EA/P -GSHERMAN

S/PRS - JTRATTNER

S/S-O- RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 109201 TOSEC 040266

EXDIS, FOR HABIB AND ATHERTON IN SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, US

SUBJECT: HABIB VISIT TO IRAQ: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. WE PROPOSE THAT FOLLOWING GUIDANCE TO THE PRESS BE
ISSUED ON AN "IF-ASKED" BASIS. WE EXPECT THAT PRESS
TRAVELLING WITH SECRETARY WILL INQUIRE ABOUT YOUR ABSENCE.

--UNDER SECRETARY HABIB IS PAYING A SHORT VISIT TO
BAGHDAD OF ABOUT TWO DAYS. THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP
IS TO EXPLORE WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT HOW U.S.-IRAQI
RELATIONS COULD BE IMPROVED.

--DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAQ WERE
BROKEN BY THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT DURING THE JUNE 1967 WAR.
THEY HAVE NOT BEEN RESTORED. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS AN
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IRAQI INTERESTS SECTION ATTACHED TO THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON TO HANDLE IRAQI INTERESTS IN THE U.S. SIMILARLY,
WE HAVE HAD A U.S. INTERESTS SECTION ATTACHED TO THE
EMBASSY OF BELGIUM IN BAGHDAD, HEADED BY A SENIOR FSO,
MARSHALL W. WILEY.

--U.S.-IRAQI TRADE HAS BEEN EXPANDING. IN 1976 US EXPORTS

TO IRAQ EXCEEDED \$381 MILLION AND THE U.S. IMPORTED \$123

MILLION APPROXIMATELY FROM IRAQ.

--UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S VISIT IS BEING TAKEN AT OUR INITIATIVE. IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE FOR THE WIDEST POSSIBLE GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ RECIPROCATES THIS DESIRE.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE APPROVAL/COMMENTS OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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